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FILED

RICHARD W. WIEKING
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

5 Attorneys for: plaintiff Regan Carroll Trust

E-Filing

6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
7
8 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO

9
10 REGAN CARROLL TRUST, Regan
Carroll, trustee,

11
12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

14 CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN
15 FRANCISCO, SAN FRANCISCO
16 DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING
17 INSPECTION, SAN FRANCISCO
18 BUILDING INSPECTION
COMMISSION, SAN FRANCISCO
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

19 Defendants.
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C 07 2577 JCS
ACTION NO:

COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE
RELIEF AND DAMAGES FOR
VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS

[28 U.S.C. § 1983]

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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2 1. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§
3 1331, in that the controversy arises under the United States Constitution and under 42
4 U.S.C. §§ 1983. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a) in that all defendants
5 reside in this judicial district and the events giving rise to the claims occurred in this
6 district.

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8 2. Plaintiff Regan Carroll Trust is a private trust established in the state of
9 California. Regan Carroll is its trustee.

10 3. Regan Carroll Trust owns the real property located at 1179-1189
11 Tennessee Street (the "Property"), in San Francisco, California.

12 4. Defendant City and County of San Francisco ("City") is
13 an incorporated municipality of the State of California. Defendants San Francisco
14 Department of Building Inspection ("DBI"), San Francisco Building Inspection
15 Commission ("BIC"), and San Francisco Planning Department ("Planning") are
16 divisions of defendant City.

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19 STATEMENT OF FACTS

20 5. In or around 1999, Plaintiff succeeded to a building permit application
21 to the City for a four- story mixed use commercial/residential building ("Project") on
22 the Property, BPA No. 9902819 ("Application"). Plaintiff's successor-in-interest had
23 been directed by Planning to review the project with the Dogpatch Neighborhood
24 Association ("DNA") to obtain the review of and approval for the Project because
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1 Planning had ceded and delegated its governmental authority to that private body.¹
2 This delegation of power is similar to that in Schulz v. Milne (N.D. Cal. 1994) 849
3 F.Supp. 708 in which this Court found the City's delegation of land use power to
4 another San Francisco neighborhood group (Bernal Heights, not far from Dogpatch)
5 violated the United States Constitution. Upon succeeding to the Application,
6 Plaintiff also met with DNA for the purpose of obtaining its approval.
7

8 6. Planning refused to determine whether the Application was complete
9 unless DNA approved it. However, because DNA would neither approve nor
10 disapprove the Application, Plaintiff had to force Planning to do its job.
11

12 7. The Application was finally determined to be complete by Planning
13 in June 2001. After the Application was deemed complete, Planning caused a notice
14 to be posted and mailed in accordance with Section 312 of the Planning Code
15 commencing the 30 day appeal period. DNA made no objections during the
16 Planning Commission comment period that expired on July 26, 2001. Planning
17 approved the Application on August 7, 2001. Planning approved the site permit on
18 September 10, 2002. This constituted the end of the discretionary approval process.
19

20 8. During the next three years the addenda drawings were routed to
21 various departments of the City for ministerial review and approval, revisions were
22 made, and all necessary approvals were given. Having received all approvals, the
23 Central Permit Bureau ("CPB") sent Plaintiff a notice that the permit was ready to be
24

25
26 ¹Dogpatch is a little-known, but powerful and politically-connected neighborhood on
27 the eastern side of San Francisco.
28

1 picked up subject only to the condition of payment of school facilities fee.

2 9. Upon presentation of the certificate of payment for the school facilities
3 fee, CPB had a mandatory duty to deliver the permit to Plaintiff.

4 10. On December 2, 2005, Plaintiff presented the Certificate of Payment
5 of School Facility Fees ("Certificate") issued by the San Francisco Unified School
6 District evidencing his payment of school fees of \$20,282.36 to the CPB, but was
7 advised by the CPB staff that the permit and addenda drawings had been removed
8 from the CPB by Moses Corrette of Planning and he would have to speak with
9 Corrette. Plaintiff was not told the circumstances of or the authority under which
10 Corrette allegedly removed the drawings, but believes it to be under mysterious and
11 aberrant circumstances - Corrette was not the planner assigned to the Project, had
12 not been involved in the approval process, and ostensibly removed the drawings from
13 CPB after being contacted by a member of DNA.

14 11. Corrette had been intimately involved with DNA and its members
15 during the process that ultimately resulted in the creation of the Dogpatch Planning
16 Historical District.

17 12. The Certificate was not accepted and the permit was not delivered to
18 Plaintiff as promised and as required upon receipt of proof of payment of the school
19 facilities fees.

20 13. The action by Corrette was in excess of his own authority as a planner
21 not involved in the project approval process. It was also in excess of the power of
22 Planning itself.

1 14. Plaintiff discovered that the mysterious and aberrant circumstances
2 consisted of ex parte contacts and undue influence by certain members of the DNA
3 on public officials, and more particularly on Corrette. Unbeknownst to Plaintiff, the
4 permit and addenda drawings were removed from CPB late at night, in a manner
5 reminiscent of Watergate, and taken back to Planning. CPB's refusal to deliver the
6 permit to Plaintiff upon proof of payment of the school facilities fees was in excess of
7 its jurisdiction and in violation of its ministerial duty as DBI had no discretion
8 regarding the delivery of the permit.
9

10 15. Contrary to Plaintiff's vested right to the permit, DBI and Planning
11 contrived various meritless reasons for withholding it, including non-substantive
12 changes to the Planning Code enacted after Plaintiff's right vested. They engaged in
13 unreasonable, arbitrary, and capricious conduct, without any rational basis, and
14 singled Plaintiff out for special handling by order of DNA as a result of the power the
15 City had unlawfully delegated to it.
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18 COUNT ONE AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS
19 VIOLATION OF 42. U.S.C. § 1983 BY
20 UNLAWFUL DELEGATION OF POWER

21 16. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1-15.

22 17. Defendants have de facto delegated municipal regulatory decision-
23 making authority to a private entity - DNA - in violation of the due process clause of
24 the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

25 18. Furthermore, this delegation of power to DNA was done without
26 supplying standards to govern the use of private discretion. DNA wields his
27

1 influence against those it disfavors and for those it favors.

2 19. Defendants act as a rubber stamp for the decisions and demands of
3 DNA, thus constituting an unlawful delegation of power to the detriment and harm
4 of Plaintiff because he is disfavored by DNA. Had Defendants not delegated their
5 power to DNA, his status as being disfavored by DNA would not have affected his
6 right to permit issuance.
7

8 COUNT TWO AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS
9 VIOLATION OF 42. U.S.C. § 1983
10 BY VIOLATION OF EQUAL PROTECTION

11 20. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1-15.

12 21. Defendants' delegation of governmental power to DNA is irrational,
13 and plainly arbitrary.

14 22. DNA used the delegation of power to abuse Plaintiff's rights to due
15 process of the law in his permit application. The City knew or should have known
16 that DNA would abuse the power delegated to it by the City and would not act in
17 accordance with standards that would have been applicable to the City.
18

19 23. By unlawfully delegating City power to DNA, without standards or
20 oversight, Defendants have deprived Plaintiff of the equal protection of the law in
21 violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
22

23 PRAYER

24 By reason of the foregoing acts the plaintiffs pray the Court:

25 1. Enjoin the unlawful acts of the Defendants, specifically:

26 a. To enjoin the Defendants from unlawfully delegating their
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1 authority to DNA or anyone else;

2 b. To enjoin the Defendants from refusing to issue qualified
3 permits;

4 2. For an award of damages in the amount of \$5,000,000;

5 3. For an award of attorney's fees as allowed by law;

6 4. For any other relief that the Court deems just and proper.
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9 Date: May 14, 2007

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12 By: 

13 ANDREW M. ZACKS
14 Attorneys for Plaintiff
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16 DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

17 Plaintiffs hereby demand trial by jury.
18

19 Date: May 14, 2007

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22 By: 

23 ANDREW M. ZACKS
24 Attorneys for Plaintiff
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